

FROM BEAN BUSTER  
TO BANK PRESIDENT

At a recent meeting of the stockholders of the Mountainair State Bank the following officers were elected to succeed the retiring staff:

J. A. Cooper, president.  
F. Q. Imboden, vice president.  
C. E. Bigelow, cashier.  
J. H. Doyle, Jr., assistant cashier.  
T. N. Hollon, L. A. Williams, M. B. Condrey, F. Q. Imboden and J. A. Cooper, directors.

The recent purchase of the interest of outside stockholders in the local institution by local men restores the Bank to local ownership and makes it a real home bank. Every director on the board is a "Bean Billie," and has made practically all he now has out of the growing of beans. Sometimes, though not often, the truth is stranger than fiction, and this is the case in this instance.

Take, for example the case of Mr. Cooper, who has just been chosen as head of the institution. He came to Mountainair something more than ten years ago, and like most of the home-seekers, he not only had his home to find, but his fortune also. He squatted on a tract of land fourteen miles southeast of Mountainair, and everyone expected him to "dry up and blow away." All he had was a wife and two children, a pony team and a good ax. The ax saved him from starvation, for with it he cut wood and posts which he hauled to town and traded for grub. With the pony team he not only hauled his wood and posts but also his water—and it was fourteen miles to water in any direction! And between spells of hauling he broke out about 15 acres which he planted to crop. When it didn't rain from March till July, it began to look as if the chances of a crop had gone. And most of Cooper's neighbors went also. The only reason that Cooper did not go with them, was that he had no means of going—neither cash nor sufficient team to haul him out. So he stayed. And that staying was his financial salvation, for he learned by bitter experience how to grow crops by "dry farming" and at times it was very "dry farming."

He kept pegging and tried one crop after another, and finally decided that the Mexican Bean was the crop to grow here. He managed to exist during the lean years, and one year made 300,000 pounds of beans only to learn that there was no market for them. After making a failure with wheat he went back to beans. In 1913 he grew 7000 pounds of beans; in 1918 80,000, which brought him about \$3,000, and put him straight with his creditors. In 1915 he made 98,000 pounds of frijoles which brought him about \$6,500.00. Then came 1916, when he planted 245 acres and harvested 175,000 pounds, which on the highest market of 7½ cents would have brought him \$13,000. 1917 and 1918 he had fairly good crops considering everything, and this year, 1919, he in partnership with M. D. Carter had 300 acres in beans, which yielded 258,300 pounds, which at 6 cents means about \$15,000 besides sufficient seed for next year.

We show herewith cut of a snap of the original Cooper home—a log hut, together with a later farm home on the homestead. Mr. Cooper has shown his faith in the country by salting down his earnings, when he had them, in land. Just how much land he owns, we would not attempt to guess, but his name shows up in numerous abstracts of title. He has always favored the land on the Mesa, and his faith has been proven, now that the farmers have learned to grow crops with slight precipitation.

## NOMENCLATURE OF FIGHTERS

In the files of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, Washington, D. C., are the names and records of upwards of 4,500,000 soldiers, sailors and marines, insured under the War Risk Insurance Act. In the card indexes are listed the names of 53,200 Johnsons, the most numerous family name in the Bureau records. Some of these Johnsons also spell their names variously, as Johnston and Johnstone. The Smiths, with 51,950, are not far behind numerically. The Browns, with 48,000, are third, and the Williams family comes to the front with 47,000 names. Then in the order named come the Joneses, 28,050 strong; the Andersons, 22,000; the Walkers, 18,500.

Of the 53,200 Johnsons, 2,138 were christened John, and 2,062 William Johnson. The favorite Christian name in the Smith family is William, being borne by 3,412 Smiths; while John was the given name of 2,625 Smiths. Of the 48,000 Browns who wore the uniform 2,000 were named plain John Brown. Of the Williams family, 280 signed up as "Willie Williams," and 170 as "William Williams." There were 900 "John Andersons," 890 were christened "Carl," and 600 "Charles."

RANCHMAN, WHO WAS  
SHOT BY ROBBERS, DIES

La Joya, N. M., Dec. 22.—Abran Contreras, wealthy ranchman, who was shot through the arm on the morning of November 23 when he was attacked by bandits, died at his home here early Sunday. Contreras was said to have kept large sums of money in his house and this is supposed to have prompted the attempted robbery.

One of the five robbers was arrested following the attempted hold up and four others a few days afterward. They were trailed into the Manzano mountains by the sheriff. One man said to be the leader of the gang, is still at liberty. The others are held in jail at Socorro. Contreras is survived by his wife and several children.

## STILL THEY COME

After last week's paper was issued, we continued to receive some belated letters for Santa which are given in this issue. We are sorry they did not reach us in time, but surely Old Saint Nick will not overlook them.

Christmas is about here I will tell you what I want for Christmas I want a target knife and candy and nuts.

James Hodgkin.

Dear dood old tanty taws:—  
I am a little boy bring me a rubber ball and a rattler and candy.

Howey Hodgkin.

Dear Santa Claus:—  
Please bring me a big doll and lots of doll clothes and lots of other things and don't forget our teacher.

Marice Fain.

Dear Santa Claus:—  
Please bring me a doll and a doll trunk, apples, oranges and candy and don't forget papa and mamma and my teacher.

Eva Hodgkin.

Dear Santa Claus:—  
Please bring me a doll and a doll bed and candy and oranges and nuts and whatever you may.

Mamie Rogers

Dear Santa Claus:—  
Bring me some candy nuts apples and a doll.

Vivian Wood.

Dear Santa Claus:—  
I want a doll, little iron doll bed candy, oranges and nuts.

Thelma Hibler.

Dear Santa Claus:—  
Please bring me a doll and doll clothes little iron, candy, nuts and lots of things.

June Hibler.

NEW EXPRESS RULES  
IN EFFECT NOVEMBER

New express packing rules, similar to those required for freight movement on railroads, are in effect, and express shippers are requested to prepare themselves for the new standards. The new packing requirements, which were recently approved by the United States railroad administration, were formulated to provide additional safeguards for the merchandise sent by express. Heretofore, shippers have been using all sorts of containers for express packages, but the new rules are expected to make the regulations uniform and thus provide business concerns with even more reliable and speedy service.

Preparations are being made at the local offices of the American Railway express company, which is the agent for the government in the handling of the express business of the entire country, to put the new rules into effect on December 10th, and to require a strict adherence to them thereafter. The express officials expect that in this way shippers will be induced to pay greater attention to their packing methods and to turn their packages over to the carrier substantially packed and clearly marked, so that, with reasonable care on the part of the expressman all traffic can be handled rapidly and with fewer chances of loss or damage in transit.

The rules, recently promulgated, will not permit the use of paper for wrapping for packages over 25 pounds, nor of ordinary paper boxes, wrapped or unwrapped, when the weight of the package is over that limit. For shipments over 25 lbs. wooden containers, or containers of fibre-board or pulpboard or corrugated strawboard material are required. The cartons must be made of materials of specified "test strengths," similar to those required for the freight service, and the containers must bear the stamp of the manufacturers certifying that the material used is of strength required for the weight of the shipment carried in it, as called for in the rules.

The express regulations, though modeled on those for the freight movement, permit a wider latitude in the size of the carton used, and carry a certain number of exceptions. Shippers who wish to acquaint themselves with the new express regulations are requested to study supplement No. 5 to express classification No. 26, in which these rules are embodied, and copies of which may be secured at any express office. It is calculated that the time remaining before December 10 will be sufficient to enable express shippers to adjust themselves to the new packing standards.

Everybody is funny to somebody. Once knew a hair-tipped girl that got most of her joy out of life laughing at her cross-eyed brother.

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Hector's Column  
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"Pa," asked Dandy Duff, "can you tell the difference between an apple and an elephant?"  
"No, son," replied Tom Duff. "I'll give it up." Which is what Mr. Duff always does when Dandy springs a riddle on him.  
"You'd be a fine man for me to send out to buy apples, wouldn't you, dad?"

"Are you an experienced aviator?"  
"Well, I've been at it three months and I'm all here."—Boston Transcript.

Art Dealer—"Here we have a fine Old Master."  
War Profiteer—"Nonsense! Any one can see it is meant to be a young girl."—London Opinion.

Father—"Money has wings and house rents make it fly."  
Son—"Yes, and some houses have wings, for I've seen many a housefly."

Father—"Your smarter than your dad, my son, but I always thought that no part of the house but the chimney flue."—Boys' Life.

Percy Poorshot (who mistook his dog for a rabbit)—"I shot my dog!"

Friend—"Was he mad?"  
Percy Poorshot—"Well, he wasn't exactly pleased."—The Ceant.

"What's the matter, Ben? You're lookin' worried."  
"Work—nothing but work from mornin' till night!"  
"Ow long have you been at it?"  
"I begin to-morrow!"—Select.

"I don't believe in parading my virtues."  
"You couldn't. It takes quite a number to make a parade."—Boston Transcript.

Little seven-year-old James came home from school the first day with a determined look on his face. He was decided on one point.

"Mother," he cried, "I'm going to quit school and be a school-teacher!"

"Why, James," said his mother, laughingly, "how can you? You don't know enough."

"Don't know enough?" exclaimed the would-be school-teacher. "You don't have to know anything! All you have to do is ask questions!"

A homely girl has her troubles, but she's not annoyed much by the stares of street loafers.



Log House—Original Ranch Home of Mr. Cooper. Also his present Ranch Home

## A GRAND OLD NAME IS MARY

John J. O'Brien, a soldier, wrote to the Bureau of War Risk Insurance about his insurance; he gave no serial or certificate numbers; but said he could be identified by the fact that the beneficiary, his wife, was named Mary A. The research workers at the Bureau found the files the names of 175 men listed as John J. O'Brien, the wives of fifty of whom bore the name of Mary A. O'Brien.

## THEY WERE ALL THERE

In the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, the files of our fighting forces indicate that many prominent men were represented by namesakes. Of "George Washingtons" there were 123, "General Washingtons," 6, "Robert E. Lee," 119, "John Quincy Adams," 47, "Abraham Lincoln," only 5. General Grant, General Wellington, General Pickett, General Jackson, and even Napoleon Bonaparte were all there, although their rank in the world war was that of private.

## A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY

The Rodriguez family from Porto Rico, according to the files of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, sent 894 men into the American forces and among this number, which was almost large enough for a battalion, there were but seven first names, as follows: Domingo, Francisco, Jose, Juan, Roman, Tomas and Antonio. The serial number of each man was in the 600,000 class.

## MANY WAYS TO SPELL 'EM

A girl clerk in the Bureau of War Risk Insurance finds from the card index files of Uncle Sam's fighters that the name "Aloysius" is spelled in forty-nine different ways, and "Ignatz" in eighteen ways. Even the simple name "John" is spelled in twenty four ways, as follows: John, Giovanni, Ian, Jae, Jack, Jackie, Jacques, Jan, Jans, Hans, Jean, Jno., Joahn, Jock, Joahn, Jock, Johan, Johann, Johannes, Johni, Johnie, Johnnie, Johnny, Johny, Jon, Juan.

Some of the Great White Father's Indian soldiers bore melodious, if complicated, descriptive names. A few among many: Harry-cries-for-Rib, George Sleep-from-House, Benjamin Comes-out Bear, David Drops-at-a-Distance, Charles Owl Walks-in-the-House, Wash Day Clouds, Isaac His-Horse-Is-Fast.

The town of Salmon, Idaho, furnished a soldier with five given names, Harry Adolph Thomas Richard Eugene Bullock.

## REWARD

I will pay \$10.00 reward for evidence that will convict anyone breaking windows or defacing or destroying any property in my charge.

R. L. SHAW.

Lost—On Mesa road between Ira Stiner's and Mountainair Motor Co., one large envelope containing valuable papers of W. D. Smith, W.S.N. Finder please leave at P. O. or Bank and receive reward.

# FLOUR MEAL SHORTS BRAN

## CAR JUST IN

Our Diamond K Flour Guaranteed

Use half a sack, and if not satisfactory bring back the remainder and get your money.

Farmers & Stockmens Eq. Ex.  
Mountainair

We have found that Friendship in business counts for much and we are grateful for yours.

Let us wish you a

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our store will be closed all day both Christmas and New Years

Pinon Hardware & Furniture Co